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October 16, 2006

The Honorable Mike Johanns
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Suite 200 A
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Johanns:

A portion of Missouri recently experienced a severe storm which included high winds, tornados, and excessive rainfall. Flooding from this storm system caused damage to crops that have yet to be harvested as well as field drainage systems. In addition, farm structures and irrigation pivots were damaged by the high winds. Farmers whose fields were in the path of this storm will realize a marked decrease in yield and face costly repairs.

I recently asked the Missouri Farm Service Agency to assess this damage in fourteen Missouri counties. Based on the damage assessment reports submitted by the agency, I respectfully request that the following nine Missouri counties be declared natural disaster areas for agricultural loss due to storm and flood damage: Butler, Cape Girardeau, Dunklin, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Perry, Ripley, and Stoddard.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration of this request. If you should have any questions about this or any other matter, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Blunt", written over a horizontal line.

Matt Blunt